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TO: Special Education Directors, Coops, and Teachers
System Test Coordinators
School Principals

FROM: Frank Podobnik, OPI Special Education Director
Susan Bailey-Anderson, Unit Manager for Professional Development, OPI Special Education Division
Judy Snow, OPI State Assessment Director
Paula Schultz, OPI Assessment Lead for Smarter Accommodations

RE: IEPs and Accommodations for the Spring 2015 Smarter Assessment

DATE: October 10, 2014

In the spring of 2014, Montana students in grades 3-8 and 11 participated in a field test of the Smarter Balanced Online Summative Assessment. Because it was a field test, it was an opportunity for Montana students and educators to become familiar with the system, including the accommodations. The Smarter system had, and will continue to have, a practice test that offers the full functionality of the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations.

In annual reviews of IEPs, schools should plan for the spring 2015 administration of Smarter and include appropriate Smarter accommodations in the IEPs. As the year progresses, those accommodations should be practiced and evaluated using the Smarter Practice Test. Teachers may also wish to use the administration of other similar tests to evaluate the effectiveness of particular accommodations or to note the areas in which a student might need an accommodation.

Many tools are available to assist schools. They are

Practice Test

<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

- The Smarter Balanced Practice Tests are available to schools and districts for practice and training purposes. Updated classroom activities and scoring guides for the Smarter Balanced Practice Test are also available.

Draft Crosswalk

<http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/DraftCrosswalkCRTSmarterAccommodations.pdf>

- Provides a chart that illustrates the alignment between the testing accommodations used for the CRT and the accommodations available for the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Resources and Practices Comparison Crosswalk

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/Smarter-Balanced-Resources-and-Practices-Comparison-Crosswalk.pdf>

- To help schools identify similarities between the assessment resources and classroom practices, Smarter Balanced has developed a crosswalk that lists the resources that are currently included in the *Guidelines* document and assists educators and decision-makers by providing a description of both the resource and its classroom equivalent.

ISAAP Tool (Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile)

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/support-for-under-represented-students/>

Scroll down the page for two links: ISAAP Tool Instructions and ISAAP

- The ISAAP tool is designed to facilitate selection of the accessibility resources that match student access needs for the Smarter Balanced assessments. The ISAAP process represents a thoughtful and systematic approach to addressing student access needs for the Smarter Balanced assessments. The ISAAP process includes preparatory steps, a step for creating the ISAAP itself, and steps that allow educators to check that Designated Supports and Accommodations are entered correctly into the test engine. Optimally, the ISAAP process is a team approach. The overall goal of using the ISAAP process and ISAAP Tool is to provide students with a comfortable testing experience that allows them to demonstrate what they know and can do.

ISAAP Webinar

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6sihyIyYV9DemgtVUMxTkNvdXc/edit?>

- Smarter Balance has recorded a webinar that provides information and guidelines for the use of the Individualized Student Accessibility and Accommodations Profile (ISAAP) tool.

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